

Goodrich Community Primary School

Friday 8th January 2016 Welcome back. Happy New Year! Premises

The torrential rain caused a few leaks – one outside class 15 where the pipe was just too small for the volume of water, but overall the school has not suffered as much as in past storms.

The fence in front of the school house is being rebuilt. Sadly, one of the lime trees had to be cut down as it had pushed the fence over. The garden in front of the house is going to contain our new pond.

Rooms available for lettings

The top of the house has been converted into a small classroom which can be used outside of school hours. Along with the conference room at the bottom of the house, which could take up to 15 people, it is available for lettings for meetings or training at £25 per hour. Please contact Joyce in the office for more details.

New medical guidance

There have been some changes to medical guidance regarding sickness.

Children who have diarrhoea or vomiting should come back to school 48 hours after it has stopped.

Children with ringworm and conjunctivitis may be in school once they have begun treatment (creams or drops), but not before. The school is willing to administer basic medicines, but only if the parent has completed the medicine consent form which is available in the school office.

New nursery class

The school has opened a new nursery afternoon class (we now have two morning and two afternoon classes). We have a few spaces still available if anyone is interested.

In addition, we do offer top-up places for parents who wish to have full-time care. We also have begun to offer part-time places for parents who only need a few days. Please see Lynn Murphy for more information.

We have been continuing to develop the nursery outdoor area, moving the bike shed and painting the walls. We have plans for an amazing water channel.

Focus on Grammar and Spelling

This year we will be focusing on improving grammar and spelling. Last term, new spelling homework was introduced, and this term most of the staff training sessions will be focused on grammar.

New tests are being introduced by the government in Year 2 and Year 6 with much higher expectations in terms of grammar.

Residential trips.

This term sees three different residential trips to Arethusa and Nethercott Farm.

Next week Year 3 are going to Arethusa with Ms McCarthy, Mr Sawh, Miss Charlton, Lynn Horgan, Hazel Morton, Ebony Caines and Geraldine Honger. Mr Barnes will take the Yr 3 children that are not going.

On 18th January some of Year 5 will be going to Arethusa for the whole week with Ms Dickson, Mr Dennis and Ms Grady.

Then as they come back on Friday 22nd, the other year 5 group will be leaving for Nethercott Farm in Devon with Mrs Devlin, Mr Billson, Ms Triner, Ms Morgan and Ashley Bishop.

Ms Goodoree and Mrs Left will take the year 5 children in school. Ms Dickson will take class 13 for this week and class 3 will be covered by a supply teacher.

Mathematics Hub

Next week nineteen schools are sending representatives to Goodrich for training on mathematics which will be led by Nigel Bufton in the bottom hall. Sixty-six schools around the country are now using our maths scheme.

Head of Charter to talk to parents.

We are pleased to be hosting a meeting on Wednesday 13th January at 3 p.m. Alex Crossman, Headteacher of The Charter School East Dulwich, will provide families with an update on the school's progress to-date

including its new temporary site on Southampton Way. Mr Billson will represent Goodrich. All welcome (it will probably be in the conference room).

School Development Plan

Every school has a development plan where they focus on a few key areas for the year ahead.

We have four priorities this year:

- 1) To raise expectations for disadvantaged children and accelerate their progress from the Early Years.
- 2) To raise standards and the progress at Key Stage 1 and 2 of pupils in spelling and grammar.
- 3) To ensure that all teaching is consistently good over time with a significant proportion being outstanding.
- 4) To continue to develop the role of middle management especially in the core skills so as to lead to outstanding achievement in Reading, Writing, Communication and Mathematics.

New Playground markings

After the success of the playground markings we have arranged for some more to be undertaken. FOG has helped with this, and they raised a magnificent £7,000 at the winter fair!

We are going to have another Four Square outline (this has proved the most popular of all the markings yet it is the simplest), a crocodile 1-10, alphabet spiral, footprints, hopscotch and shapes in the lower playground.